

MAAG Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 27, 2025

MACP Program Report

Program updates

The MACP is 6 months into our new 4-year CDC grant cycle. In addition to an annual workplan, this funding award requires our program to submit an updated strategic plan, and updated strategic evaluation plan, a data management plan, and a communications plan.

Legislation of Interest

Stock Albuterol in Schools – HB600

https://bills.legmt.gov/#/laws/bill/2/LC2896?open_tab=sum

- HB 600 passed unanimously out of the House Education Committee
- DPHHS has fact sheets available and is has provided testimony in support

Childcare Providers Training & Resources

The Childcare Training and Resource Guide are undergoing a long overdue revamp. Development of the new guide is well underway, and we anticipate that it will be completed this spring. The course will be moved to a much more formal platform on the Childcareresources.org website.

Healthcare Quality Improvement

The MACP is currently working with 3 healthcare organizations on asthma quality improvement projects. Buy-in amongst leadership and multiple aspects of the care team is necessary for project success. Additional work is taking place internally to develop a more uniform process for assessing organization readiness prior to projects. If there are barriers to readiness the QI coordinator can help sites develop an action plan to get through these barriers prior to engaging in asthma QI activities.

The MACP is seeking one final site to start between 3/1 – 8/31 (Grant year 1). Sites can receive \$5,000 for participating in an asthma QI project with an opportunity to add a tobacco screening and cessation component for an additional \$2,000. Any facility providing healthcare to patients is eligible for asthma QI projects.

Montana (Strategic) Asthma Plan 2025-2030

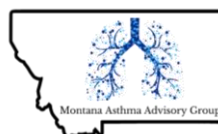
Key Priority Areas:

1. Public Health & Healthcare Infrastructure
2. Achievement of Guidelines-Based Medical Management
3. Patient & Caregiver Education
4. Tobacco Use Prevention & Cessation
5. Environmental Policies & Best Practices to Reduce Asthma Triggers

*Surveillance and evaluation will remain at the center of all our interventions and drive improvement in our work.

This iteration of the strategic plan includes an increased focus on health equity and addressing social needs impacting asthma outcomes.

The Montana Asthma Plan is a living document. The MACP welcomes feedback from partners. Please send any feedback to BJ at wbiskupiak@mt.gov.



Surveillance & Evaluation

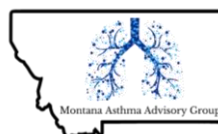
- Updated MAP Infographic
- Upcoming surveillance reports
 - Occupational Asthma – will primarily use BRFSS data
 - Air Quality in Schools Review
 - National Survey of Children’s Health Review & Comparison
 - The MACP must use the NSCH going forward, as funding for the Asthma Call Back Survey is no longer available. Unfortunately, this means we will lose access to much of our asthma “control” data.
- Strategic Evaluation Plan
 - 8 evaluations planned from 2024-2028 (see slides for more details)
 - The MACP will seek input from stakeholders depending on the focus of each evaluation.

Air Quality & Wildfire Smoke- airquality.mt.gov

- We tend to see a significant spike in the rate of asthma-related physician visits before PM2.5 levels even hit 100ug/m³. The relative rate of physician visits continues to climb as air quality worsens, but a much slower rate. (See graph and in slides)
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/379534102_The_public_health_paradox_of_wildfire_smoke
- Clean Indoor Air Recognition Program
 - 6 sites piloting this program and materials in 2025 in Missoula/Ravalli Counties. These will be place where people can go to find relief when outdoor air quality is poor. Sites will monitor indoor/outdoor air quality, take steps to protect and improve indoor air quality, and offer activities for patrons who are seeking clean air relief.
 - Mary is working with Red Cross to share these resources is other communities through the state. Red Cross shelters will be encouraged to consider what they are doing to provide clean indoor air.
- Wildfire Smoke Response Toolkits:
 - Press releases
 - Email templates for schools
 - Guides for coaches
 - Adaptable social media posts
 - Informational resources for the public
 - Clean Indoor Air Checklists

**Some resources will be available in Spanish and other languages*

- The MACP is also currently developing resources for outdoor workers, including migrant workers.



- **Free Technical Training: Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burn Events**
 - When/Where: May 6, 2025 | 9am – 12pm
Hamilton, MT
 - May 6, 2026 | 1:30pm – 4:30pm
Missoula, MT
 - Intended Audience: HVAC Professionals and Building Managers
 - The MACP is working with an HVAC engineer, Dave Ryan to host this training for Clean Air Center partners. The training is open to any HVAC professionals and building managers.
 - How to participate: Register at <https://forms.office.com/g/LshnB9JLfr>

Home Health Box- AI for Home Environmental Assessments

Matt Fischer, Founder & CEO | Altair Health

Matt@Altairhealth.io | 703-344-5358

<https://www.homehealthbox.com>



- A box where we can mail sensors to a home to test for different things that could possibly harm their health.
- Devices have like embedded cellular data up feeds with cellular connection.
- Hope is that we can get this box to thousands of people across the country and they can sign up for our membership, and then each month we send we focus on a different area of water, air, mold, etcetera. (12 month, 6 month, fertility & pregnancy).
- Customers receive a home health “data box” as well, a secure vector database. The data box can generate a report that can be shared with healthcare providers and provide insight into what additional tests could be done (e.g. water testing and lead >> blood lead levels).

For the first time in history, we're able to sort through, organize and unorganized data in a very interesting way where we can see things that maybe we couldn't before we, creating links between comorbidities.

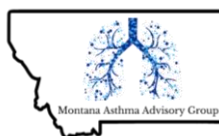
Q: Can internet connectivity be an issue in rural Montana. Has Altair Health considered how this could work down the road in homes with limited connectivity?

A: 1. The uploads require very low levels of data- cellular data could be used. 2. Starlink could possibly be sent to a household on loan.

Q: Can these Home Health Boxes potentially be used with Montana Asthma Home Visiting clients?

A: Yes, these could be ordered for MAP clients.

(Funding through MACP at this point isn't available for this, but it's something that could be revisited as a potential service to offer down the road)



Partner Sharing

Kris Minard (OPI) – Traveling around to schools throughout the state doing vaping prevention presentations. Nearly every school seems to have air purifiers – great to see.

Meeting Attendance:

Attendance:

BJ Biskupiak	MT Asthma Control Program- Program Manager
Colin Gale	MT Asthma Control Program- Data Analyst
Stephanie Hernandez	MT Asthma Control Program- Financial Specialist
Mary Anderson	MT Asthma Control Program- Wildfire Smoke Coordinator
Angie Brakefield	MT Asthma Control Program- Health Education Specialist
Mary Anderson	MT Asthma Control Program- Air Quality/Wildfire Smoke Coordinator
Callan Conroy	MT DPHHS- Quality Improvement Specialist
Katie Sheehy	MT DPHHS- State School Nurse Consultant
Alisa Maus, RN	Wibaux Public Schools- School Nurse
Jason Kleinschmidt	St. Vincent Healthcare, Respiratory Therapy Neurodiagnostics Manager
Jillian Boll, RN	Flathead City County Health Department – MAP Home Visitor
Mackenzie Gress	Flathead City County Health Department – MAP Supervisor
Megan Brunelle, RN	Cascade County Health Department- MAP Home Visitor
Charity Middlemas	Lewis and Clark County Health Department- MAP Home Visitor
Mary Sparks	Lewis and Clark County Health Department- MAP Supervisor
Jessie Fernandes, MPH, CPH	DPHHS Health Improvement Section- Section Supervisor
Patty Kosednar	Mountain Pacific Quality Health
Elaine Alston, PA, PAC	Gallatin County Health Department, MAP Home Visitor
Kelly Keenan	Gallatin County Health Department, MAP Supervisor
Margaret Mullins, MS	DPHHS – Social Determinants of Health Program Coordinator
Courtney Geary, MPH	MT Asthma Control Program- Epidemiologist/Evaluator
Will Gardner, MPH, CPH	DPHHS Health Improvement Section – Lead Epidemiologist
LeAnn Harrison, RN	oneHealth (Custer County Health Department)- MAP Home Visitor
Brian Duke	AstraZeneca- Biologic Sales Specialist- Medimmune Biologic Division
Mary Smith, RN	St. Peter’s Health, Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Supervisor
Mary Blevins, RRT,AE-C	Montana VA Healthcare Systems- Cardiopulmonary Manager
Kris Minard	Montana Office of Public Instruction
Yvette Anderson, PharmD, RPh	Respiratory Medical Science Liaison w/ Glaxo Smith Kline
Jennifer Vandekop	Anaconda Deer Lodge County Health Department- MAP Home Visitor
Matt Fischer	Altair Health CEO

Next Meeting: June 25, 2025 | 10:00 - 11:30am

